

- 2 -

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract, as follows:

A system and method for ~~providing~~includes passive screening of transient messages in a distributed computing environment is described. A transient packet stream is passively monitored at a network boundary. Incoming datagrams structured in compliance with a network protocol layer are received. One or more of the incoming datagrams are reassembled into a segment structured in compliance with a transport protocol layer. Contents of the reassembled segment are scanned for a presence of at least one of a computer virus and malware to identify infected message contents.